

Remarks:

The Official Action dated October 6, 2004 has been carefully considered. In view of the amendment presented herewith and these remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

At the outset, it is noted that a shortened statutory period of three (3) months was set in the October 6, 2004 Official Action. Accordingly, the initial response period is due to expire January 6, 2005. This amendment and request for reconsideration is being filed before the expiration of the initial response period.

In the October 6, 2004 Official Action, claims 10-21 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, although claim 9 was finally rejected, it was stated that claim 9 would be allowable if it were amended to include the recitation of claim 21.

In accordance with the present amendment, independent claim 9 has been amended to include the recitation of claim 21, which the Examiner has found to define over the prior art.

Claims 1-8 and 21 have been cancelled in accordance with this amendment. The cancellation of claims 1-8, which is done as a result of the Examiner's decision to maintain the restriction requirement, is without prejudice to applicant's right to file one or more continuing applications, as provided in 35 U.S.C. §121, directed to the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested inasmuch as this amendment neither introduces new matter into this application nor requires further examination and/or search, and it clearly places the application in condition for allowance, being entirely consistent with the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in the October 6, 2004 Official Action.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendment

presented herewith, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN

By Patrick J. Hagan

Patrick J. Hagan

PTO Registration No. 27,643

Telephone: 215-563-4100